

# CONNECTIONS

THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT CHAPEL HILL



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CONNECTIONS is devoted to the diversity and opportunity in Eastern Europe and Eurasia, published by the Duke-UNC Center for Slavic, Eurasian, and East European Studies, Durham and Chapel Hill, North Carolina.

## CSEEEES Welcomes Three New Faculty Members

### DR. LOUISE MCREYNOLDS



Dr. Louise McReynolds joins the UNC Department of History after more than twenty years of teaching experience at the University of Hawaii – Honolulu. She received a Ph.D. in Russian History from the University of Chicago; previously she had taken a Master of Arts degree in Russian History and a Bachelor of Arts degree in Journalism, from Indiana University and Southern Methodist University, respectively. Dr. McReynolds is the author of two books, *Russia at Play: Leisure Activities at the End of the Tsarist Era* and *The News under Russia's Old Regime: the Development of the Mass Circulation Press*. She has edited, translated, or contributed to dozens of other volumes, in addition to penning numerous articles for Slavic, cultural, and historical journals.

Currently, Dr. McReynolds is teaching two courses, "Russia to 1861," for undergraduates and "Nineteenth Century Russian History," for graduate students. In the future, she hopes to create new courses in the history curriculum: one of these is a special seminar, slated for next semester, which deals with culture and identity in Imperial Russia. In the spring, she

will also teach a First Year Seminar, covering U.S. and European cinema. Dr. McReynolds is in the process of completing a new book, which addresses the topic of sensational murders in pre-Revolutionary Russia.

Our newest Russian history professor says that although she will miss Hawaii, she certainly looks forward to Chapel Hill for several reasons: the quality of the university and its program, the opportunities provided by CSEEEES, and the city's proximity to family. When she can find the rare bit of free time, she enjoys swimming, a good glass of wine, and following wide range of sports – including, most importantly, Carolina basketball.



### DR. MICHELE RIVKIN-FISH

Also joining the faculty ranks at UNC is Dr. Michele Rivkin-Fish, whose specialty is medical anthropology. Dr. Rivkin-Fish completed her Ph.D. and M.A. at Princeton University, after receiving her B.A. in anthropology at Vassar College. Prior to coming to Chapel Hill, Dr. Rivkin-Fish taught anthropology at both the University of Michigan and the

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## CSEEEES Receives Title VI Grants

The Duke-UNC Center for Slavic, Eurasian, and East European Studies (CSEEEES) Consortium has received new U.S. Department of Education Title VI National Resource Center (NRC) and Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) grants for 2006-2010. In 2006-07, these grants total over \$665,000 and allow CSEEEES to offer FLAS Fellowships for summer and academic year study of languages and areas studies as well as undertake a wide range of programming and events. Among the programming and events planned for the 2006-07 academic year are workshops on Gender, Culture, and History (see announcement); language proficiency and testing; a Central Asia roundtable; programs on media and democracy and Russian musical heritage, and East European and Russian concerts. Additionally, several community outreach programs have been planned along with other NRCs on each campus: initiatives with World View, the North Carolina Center for Public Television, and WXYC's Global Music program; and teacher pre-service training with the UNC-CH School of Education. In addition, CSEEEES at UNC-CH is hiring a new Associate Director this fall (see story on page 3).

## Announcements

• **The Workshop Series Gender, Politics, And Culture in Europe and Beyond** will present “Family, Work, & Welfare in Past and Present: A Transatlantic Workshop,” as part of its series on **November 10 and 11, 2006**. The workshop is co-sponsored by the CSEEEs. For more information, please visit: <http://www.unc.edu/depts/slavic>

• **Dr. Csaba Bekes**, founding Director of the Cold War Research Centre, Budapest, and Senior Research Fellow at the 1956 Institute in Budapest, will present a lecture, “The 1956 Hungarian Revolution and World Politics,” at **7:00 p.m. on Thursday, November 30, 2006**, at Toy Lounge in Dey Hall.

• **Milada Vachudova**, Political Science, was recently notified that her book *Europe Undivided: Democracy, Leverage and Integration After Communism* was the co-winner of the 2006 Marshall Shulman Book Prize for an outstanding monograph dealing with the international relations or foreign policy of any of the states of the former Soviet Union or Eastern Europe, awarded by the American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies (AAASS).

• **Brent Wissick**, Music, spent a week performing in Wroclaw, Poland in September. He performed as a guest with the Polish ensemble COLLEGIO DI MUSICA SACRA, directed by Andrzej Kosendiak, and also presented a solo cello and viola da gamba recital with Polish harpsichordist Natalya Spehl.

• Professor Emeritus **Samuel H. Baron** has been invited to St. Petersburg to participate in the celebration of the 150th anniversary of G. V. Plekhanov's birth. He has also been invited to contribute to a Festschrift for historian Robert Crumme, and to write a review of Valerie Kivelson's new book *Cartographies of Tsardom: The Land and its Meaning in Seventeenth Century Russia*.

## Student Gets First-Hand Look at Slovak Politics, Diplomacy

ADRIANNE LAPAR, A UNC SENIOR IN INTERNATIONAL STUDIES AND SPANISH, WHO HAS WORKED AT THE CSEEEs FOR OVER 3 YEARS, SHARES HER EXPERIENCE AS AN INTERN FOR THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE

After just three days in Bratislava, I had already paid a courtesy call to the U.S. Ambassador to Slovakia, heard the country's President and Prime Minister speak publicly, and written my first cable to Washington. Such was my life as an intern at U.S. Embassy Bratislava.

This summer I spent ten weeks working at the Embassy and living in the historic center of Bratislava. With parliamentary elections quickly approaching, the Embassy was bustling with activity from the very start. A highlight of my experience was meeting with representatives of HZDS (Movement for a Democratic Slovakia) and SNS (Slovak National Party), parties which would become members of the governing coalition just a few weeks later.

In addition to learning about Slovak domestic politics, I got a first-hand look at U.S. diplomacy. I accompanied political officers from the Embassy to deliver demarches, and attended a conference about security policy at the

Ministry of Foreign Affairs. On another occasion, I was assigned to plan a public outreach trip for the Ambassador to southern Slovakia—a largely agricultural region that is traditionally home to Slovakia's largest minority groups, Hungarians and Roma. Part of the Embassy's mission is to promote understanding and the protection of minority rights in Slovakia. It was for this reason that our visit included the village of Šarovce. About half of the village's 1500 inhabitants are Roma, and Šarovce has attained local acclaim for its success at integration and tolerance.

My visit to Šarovce helped spark my interest in Slovakia's Roma minority, which eventually blossomed into the topic of my senior honors thesis. However, it was just one of many experiences this summer that have broadened my knowledge of international politics, changed my way of thinking about the world, and helped influence my future career goals.

## Russian Poets Attend Roundtable Discussion

The Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures, with the support of the Open World Leadership Center and CEC ArtsLink, recently had the privilege of hosting a roundtable discussion of the present literary environment in Russia, “What Does It Mean to Be a Writer in Today's Russia?” Four Russian writers and dozens of members from the university community packed into a standing-only room in Vance Hall to take part in a discussion of a wide range of audience-driven questions dealing with the past, present, and fu-

ture of the Russian literary tradition.

The audience's questions prompted discussion of such diverse issues as literary influences, the current political climate in Russia, and the cultivation of new generations of Russian writers. There were no clear-cut answers to these questions, but rather a series of spirited debates in which differing viewpoints emerged. The writers spoke out about the dangers facing their peers in Russia as well as the state of freedom in the media. They dis-

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University of Kentucky. The author of several scholarly articles, she has also written *Women's Health in Post-Soviet Russia: The Politics of Intervention*, which has just been selected by the Association for Women in Slavic Studies of the AAASS as the Best Book in Slavic/Eastern European/Eurasian Women's Studies. Dr. Rivkin-Fish has also served as a consultant for the World Health Organization (WHO) in Russia, advising the WHO on the outcomes of its programs designed to improve the effectiveness of interventions in the medical sphere. At the same time, she was able to conduct most of the research necessary for her book.

Dr. Rivkin-Fish's academic interests lie in examining how the anthropological discipline can contribute to an understanding of the healthcare field and how it can be improved through reform, as is evidenced by the courses she leads. This semester Dr. Rivkin-Fish taught "Health and Gender after Socialism," and next spring she will teach two anthropological courses: "Comparative Healing Systems" and a graduate-level seminar, "Culture and Politics of Reproduc-

tion." Her current research includes analysis of Russia's demographic standing today, focused around three different facets: low birthrates, high male mortality rates, and migration.

Dr. Rivkin-Fish developed an interest in Russia in the mid-1980s, and has visited the country many times since. When she is not occupied with work, Dr. Rivkin-Fish enjoys spending time with her two children, Itai and Sophie.



**DR. RADISLAV LAPUSHIN**

Dr. Radislav Lapushin recently completed his Ph.D. at the University of Chicago. Prior to his doctoral studies, he received a post-graduate level degree from Moscow State University, writing his dissertation on A.P. Chekhov. Dr. Lapushin previously lectured for eight years at the Belarusian State University in Minsk. Although his original area of interest was journalism, Dr. Lapushin redirected his focus to literature, which culminated with the publication of a book on Chekhov and the subsequent publication of five volumes of his own poetry.

This semester, Dr. Lapushin is teaching two courses, "Russian Stylistics" and "Nineteenth Century Russian Literature." He will continue with Russian Stylistics next semester as well, but will also lead a graduate course that will cover the great works of A.S. Pushkin in all genres and the critical reception that they have received. His research interests include further work on Chekhov; more specifically, exploring the intercommunication between Chekhov's prose and poetry and the development of boundaries between the two. Dr. Lapushin is also intrigued by the further adaptation of Chekhov's work for cinematic productions.

Although he just moved to Chapel Hill from Chicago, Dr. Lapushin has visited before. The change in locales is certainly a significant one, but Dr. Lapushin welcomes it, especially given the quality of the Slavic Department and the atmosphere of the university. In his free time, Dr. Lapushin relaxes at home with his son, Larry, soon to turn eleven, and his dog, Bob. He enjoys listening to both classical and jazz music.

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cussed what some saw as the "vulgarization" of contemporary literature and the tastes of the audience in Russia today. The session advanced rapidly and covered a wide range of material.

The participants of the September 20<sup>th</sup> discussion were Arkadiy Babchenko, Marina Kulakova, Yevgeniya Lavut, and Kseniya Marennikova. Mr. Babchenko is a veteran of the Chechen wars and a writer of prose dealing with that subject. He also has journalistic experience, having worked for the Russian television network NTV. Ms. Kulakova, a proud native of Nizhny Novgorod, has completed many works, prose and verse alike. She, too, has written some journalistic pieces in the past. Ms. Lavut has published several anthologies of her

poetry, many of which have been translated into other languages. She is currently employed by Radio Free Europe. Ms. Marennikova is a poet whose work is described as "progressive and experimental." She is particularly engaged with younger audiences, transmitting her work via the Internet, as well as taking an interest in how young writers are instructed.

The writers also paid a visit to Borders Book Store in Chapel Hill the following day. The authors shared their works with the large audience in a series of readings. UNC-CH Russian Literature Professor and Chair of the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures Christopher Putney led both events.

## CSEEEES Seeks Associate Director

The UNC-Chapel Hill Center for Slavic, Eurasian, and East European Studies (CSEEEES) is pleased to announce that it is recruiting for the new position of Associate Director. This is an exciting opportunity to become part of the growing Center community, highlighted by a move into the brand new FedEx Global Education Center in December 2006. The Associate Director will be involved in all aspects of Center operations, with particular responsibility for outreach and Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) coordination. For more information, please visit the Center's website at: <http://www.unc.edu/depts/slavic>



## Center Welcomes Caleb Baker



Welcome to Caleb Baker, who just began working as the new Department Manager for the CSEEEES. Prior to joining the Center, Caleb worked for three years in the Office of Alumni Affairs at the Kenan-Flager Business School at UNC-CH. Caleb taught English in Prague for two years, during which time his students taught him many "natural phrases for getting around the city." Caleb has a fondness for Czech language, culture, and history. Please stop by the Center and meet Caleb.

## Meet the Russian & East European Studies M.A. Class of 2008



Matthew Green is from southwestern Virginia, where he took B.A.s in International Studies and Political Science from Virginia Tech. Although he wrote his thesis on center-periphery relations in the Russian Federation, he is still unsure as to what his exact area of emphasis will be at Carolina. In his free time, Matt enjoys reading, cycling, and running up ridiculously high golf scores.



Katrina Nowak graduated in 2004 from the University of Rochester with a B.A. in History. She spent 2 years on active duty in the United States Navy and now serves as a Reservist. Her concentration is in Russian, with a focus on History and Political Science. After completing an M.A., Katrina hopes to continue her education. Career interests include teaching and government employment.

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of North Carolina at Chapel Hill  
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*This publication was produced  
without the use of state funds.*

*CONNECTIONS is a quarterly  
publication of the joint Duke-UNC  
Center for Slavic, Eurasian, and  
East European Studies.*

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